

Audio Emporium Newsletter 2-1-12

Hosannas! Hosannas!

Every once in a while a product comes out that really is a “game changer.” The problem is, every manufacturer tells you every latest product is a game changer. We’re immune to the bragging.

Every car ad you see is the lowest price and best deal ever. Usually we pay no attention when someone tells us they have a product that is unique to the marketplace.

Well THIS TIME the ranting and raving is justified! A product has just landed that IS a real category buster. It pays attention to the needs of today’s customer like nothing else out there.

It delivers sparkling, powerful sound. It’s one of the best values in the history of serious hifi because while it isn’t cheap, it is downright inexpensive for the serious level of performance it provides for its price point. It is built in California by an American company. PeachTree.

PeachTree Grand Integrated Amp \$4300 (400x2 & a lot more!)

The Grand Integrated starts life as a brontosaurus of an amplifier. With 400x2 horsepower, there’s literally no speaker this beast won’t drive. Perhaps the acid test of a challenging loudspeaker is the line of Magnepans. It isn’t that Maggies require oodles of power to play to a reasonable volume. But they require *mega quality* power to deliver the detail, dynamics and bass that we Maggie lovers know they have within them! Nothing short of a high octane amp will drive them to their capabilities.

Grand Integrated

no-holds-barred
400 wpc
integrated amp



If you have a Bryston 4BSST-2 amp, matching Bryston BP-26 preamp and BDA-1 DAC, for \$12,275, you’re set. With anything much south of that, you’re leaving performance on the table. After running the Grand Integrated with Maggie 1.7s and 3.7s at length, I can promise you it delivers the goods abundantly! Literally everyone that has heard the Grand Integrated with Maggies thinks we have a subwoofer turned on. They can’t believe what the Maggies are capable of!

The Grand Integrated preamp section offers solid state OR tube operation. Both are on board. YOU choose the path. If you like the warmth of tubes, activate the tubes. If you don’t, leave them off. I think you’ll like the 12AU7 tubes in the preamp section. The preamp features a pre out- so you can add a powered sub, or additional power amp. It also has a home theater bypass option.

The Grand Integrated features a built in Sabre DAC. This is an edge of the art DAC that shakes hands with your computer, CD drive, Sonos, Apple TV or other digital sources. The DAC is a large upgrade from what is in your other gear. You’ll get the sonic benefit of this DAC while utilizing the features of your existing sources.

Your computer produces tidal waves of jitter or distortion. The Sabre DAC deals with the jitter by flattening it down to a still pond, allowing you to hear music without the concomitant clutter. All DACs are not created equal.

The Sabre DAC challenges the state of the art and sells outboard for \$1k by its lonesome!
The Grand Integrated has a fine headphone amp on board for you headphone hounds.

PeachTree also makes the Grand Pre for \$3k. It is virtually the same product with no amp on board. But with the Grand Integrated, you get the 400x2 built in (for only \$1300 more).

We've seen boatloads of electronics over the years. We've heard a lot of very nice products. But since almost all of our customers are using their computers for storage or streaming and don't have enough horse power to make their speakers sing *as they can* – Grand Integrated achieves new levels of performance- at a very fair price!

A Moving Target For a Hair Dresser!

A most famous composer was more than a handful for his barber to handle. The young (20s ish) composer couldn't sit still in the chair. Between chortling & fidgeting while telling stories and jumping up to run to the clavier when a new idea popped into his head every minute or two, the barber literally had his hands full. Yet the barber put up with these shenanigans because this was no ordinary customer. The irritation was comedic and even understandable from a step back because the client was... Mozart.

